

Tuesday, April 22, 2003, 8 p.m.  
Walter Hall

CD 2003--79/80

University of Toronto  
Faculty of Music  
Presents

## Third Annual Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award Gala Concert

### PROGRAMME

**Franz Schubert**  
1797-1828

Quartettsatz in C minor, D.703  
TOKAI STRING QUARTET  
Csaba Koczó & Amanda Goodburn, violins  
Javier Portero, viola; Rafael Hoekman, cello

**Felix Mendelssohn**  
1809-1847

Quartet in F minor, Op. 80  
Allegro vivace  
Allegro assai  
Adagio  
Allegro molto  
DOWNTOWN STRING QUARTET  
Christian Robinson & Jennifer Burford, violins  
Alex McLeod, viola; Alexandra Lee, cello

**Chan Ka Nin**  
b.1949

String Quartet No. 3  
TOKAI STRING QUARTET

### INTERMISSION

**Bedrich Smetana**  
1824-1884

Quartet No. 1 in E minor, "From My Life"  
Allegro vivo appassionato  
Allegro moderato a la Polka  
Largo sostenuto  
Vivace

GEMINI STRING QUARTET  
Akemi Mercer & Victoria Lindsay, violins  
Caitlin Boyle, viola; Nadia Klein, cello

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Proceeds from this concert will benefit the Felix Galimir Chamber Music Fund.

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# Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award

This concert showcases the winners of this year's Felix Galimir Award. In memory of chamber music legend Felix Galimir, this award was created by Scott St. John and Lorand Fenyves. New initiatives from Dean David Beach have expanded the scope of the award, with major thanks to chamber music donors Alice and Grant Burton for their support of the "Chamber Groups on Tour" program. This year, each player will receive a cash award and the opportunity to perform in the Faculty of Music's new "Chamber Groups on Tour" program. Concerts are planned for the Festival of the Sound in July, and in Barrie

and Montreal during September

As part of the Felix Galimir Award, the Kincardine Summer Music Festival offers a scholarship to its Chamber Music Program for a Galimir Award winning group. Due to scheduling conflicts for summer 2003 none of the award-winning groups is able to take advantage of this scholarship. However, the Kincardine Summer Music Festival is happy to grant this scholarship to an outstanding young ensemble in the University Chamber Music Program: the Rydonk Quartet - Sharon Lee & Elizabeth Loewen, violins; Marcin Swoboda, viola and Rafael Kuerti, cello.

## Felix Galimir (1910-1999)

Felix Galimir was one of the last links to the vital musical world of prewar Vienna, and a chamber music player who was revered by several generations of instrumentalists as a demanding and inspiring coach.

It would be difficult to overstate Galimir's centrality in American chamber music life, but perhaps the best measure of his influence is that at virtually any chamber concert today, at least one musician on the stage is likely to have studied with, been coached by or performed in an ensemble with him. He was, with the pianist Rudolf Serkin, a guiding spirit at the Marlboro Festival in Vermont, where for 50 years young musicians and experienced colleagues have spent summers exploring the chamber literature.

In addition to his work at Marlboro, a typical concert season for Galimir included teaching commitments at Juilliard School and the Mannes College of Music, both in New York, and the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia – he was on the faculty of all three – as well as at the New York String Orchestra seminar, a program for young musicians. He was also a coach at the chamber workshops that Isaac Stern

conducts periodically at Carnegie Hall. He performed as a member of New York Philomusica and appeared regularly with Musicians From Marlboro, the touring ensembles that keep the festival's name and work alive between summer sessions.

One reason Galimir was such a compelling and authoritative teacher is that in addition to his long experience as a quartet player – he formed the Galimir String Quartet when he was still a teenager, in 1929, and kept it going with younger musicians until 1993 – he knew and worked with many of this century's great composers. The circle in which Galimir traveled early in his career included the composers Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg and Anton Webern – the founders of Serialism – as well as Ernst Krenek, Alexander von Zemlinsky and other members of Schoenberg's Society for Contemporary Music.

Berg coached the Galimir Quartet in his *Lyric Suite* in 1931 and inscribed the score of the 20-year old violinist, "To Felix Galimir, outstanding quartet leader, excellent violinist, splendid musician, in remembrance." In 1936, when the Galimir Quartet recorded the *Lyric Suite* and

Ravel's String Quartet, both composers were on hand to oversee the ensemble's rehearsals and recording sessions. The recordings were awarded the Grand Prix du Disques.

For his entire life, Galimir was an eloquent and passionate champion of the composers he knew in his youth, and in discussing Schoenberg, Berg and Webern, he always emphasized the soulfulness he found in their works, rather than the austerity that many listeners hear in the music.

"Berg asked for enormous correctness in the performance of his music," Galimir told *The New York Times* in 1981. "But the moment this was achieved, he asked for a very Romanticized treatment. Webern, you know, was also terribly Romantic – as a person and when he conducted. Everything was almost oversentimentalized. It was entirely different from what we have been led to believe today. His music should be played very freely, very emotionally."

As a teacher, he sought to instill a love for new music in students, and he spoke wistfully of a time when that did not require such an effort.

"When I was a student, it was understood that young people played new music," he said in the 1981 interview. "Now, unfortunately, this is no longer so. I have difficulty asking my students to play even the Bartok violin and piano sonatas. The students want the best sellers. I would like to see that any young group that plays Beethoven quartets plays something new also. Somebody who is at the end of his life and plays only Beethoven and Brahms, that's a different story. But a youngster, he should try everything."

Galimir was born in Vienna on May 12, 1910, and said in interviews that he felt like an outsider from an early age. Although his mother was an Austrian, his father was from Romania and was considered an enemy alien during World War I. The fact that the Galimirs were Sephardic Jews and spoke Ladino, a

hybrid of medieval Spanish and Hebrew, raised similar suspicions because it sounded vaguely like Italian, and Austria and Italy were at war. "I had to learn German very quickly," Galimir said later.

He also learned the violin quickly. At 12, he entered the New Vienna Conservatory, where he studied the violin with Adolf Bak and chamber music with Simon Pullman. In the early 1930's, he continued his studies with Carl Flesch. But by then he had already made his public debut as a soloist in the Beethoven Violin Concerto and formed the Galimir String Quartet, in which his sisters were the other players.

In 1936, Galimir was hired by the Vienna Philharmonic. In "Felix Galimir in Conversation," a film by Ken Kobland that was produced for the Bard Festival in 1999, he remembered himself as an inexperienced musician at the time. "I had never heard a Brahms symphony until I played one," he said. It was also an increasingly uncomfortable time for him as a young Jewish musician in a society where anti-Semitism was increasingly open. In the film, Galimir spoke about one performance at which, just as the lights went down, the principal clarinetist called out, in a voice audible throughout the theater, "Galimir – have you eaten your matzos today?"

The following season he was barred from playing in a performance at a resort outside Vienna, and then dismissed from the orchestra. By then, his father and his older sister had left for Paris and were urging him to follow. Instead, he and two of his sisters accepted the invitation of Bronislaw Huberman to come to Palestine, where Huberman was starting the orchestra that became the Israel Philharmonic.

In 1938, Galimir emigrated to New York. He immediately played a recital at Town Hall, formed a new version of the Galimir String Quartet and had some freelance performing jobs at WQXR, the radio station owned by The New York



Times. He also played for several years with Arturo Toscanini's NBC Symphony.

By the early 1950s, though, Galimir had become increasingly involved in chamber music, both with his own quartet, with the New York Philharmonica ensemble and at Marlboro, to which he was invited by Serkin in 1952 after the death of one of the festival's founders, the violinist Adolf Busch. And after 1954, when he joined the faculty of the City College of New York, he devoted himself increasingly to teaching.

His affiliation with the Juilliard School began in 1962, and he was appointed head of the chamber music department at the Curtis Institute in 1972. In 1976 he began teaching at the Mannes College of Music.

Galimir was a short, genial man who held strong opinions and delivered them in a Viennese accent that underscored both their vehemence and the current of humor that sometimes ran through them.

Expressing his distrust of politics mixed into music, for example, he remarked in "Felix Galimir in Conversation" that he had heard the Shostakovich 11th Symphony a couple of days before the interview. "It was a disgrace," he said. "Such noise. Stalin decides who writes good music. Who was Stalin?"

Although he said music was both his profession and his hobby, he also enjoyed watching football, and he had a large collection of clocks.

—Allan Kozinn, Excerpted from *The New York Times* © 1999

## Award Recipients

The **Tokai String Quartet** was formed in August 2002 with the intention of becoming a professional group. The quartet boasts a particularly diverse membership representing many areas of the world. Members are citizens of or grew up in the following countries: Canada, United States, Hungary, Yugoslavia, South Africa, and Argentina. In its first year the Tokai Quartet became the Quartet-in-Residence of the Silvestrov Group in Toronto. Performances have included works by Beethoven, Barber, Chan Ka Nin, Kurt Weill, Mahler, Levkovich, Dumas, Silvestrov, and Schubert. Future performances include the Summer Series at the Music Garden in August, Mozart's G Minor Quintet in September with Scott St. John on Viola, and a joining with the Downtown Quartet for a performance of the Mendelssohn Octet. Currently they work with Prof. Lorand Fenyves at the University of Toronto.

**Csaba Koczó** was born in Hungary, and started his violin studies in Yugoslavia at the age of eight. In 1990 he moved back to Hungary and continued his studies at

the Bela Bartok Conservatory. Upon graduation, he came to Toronto to study with Lorand Fenyves. As the recipient of the H. Carter scholarship he is currently pursuing his Master's degree at U of T with Erika Raum. Csaba was a founding member of the Sandor Frigyes Chamber Orchestra, which toured in Hungary and Italy. He also participated in various master classes and festivals, including the Summer Academy in Semmering. He has won prizes in many competitions including the National Violin Competition in Hungary, the Leo Weiner International Competition and the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra concerto competition, where he performed the Beethoven Violin concerto. Csabo plays on a number of concert series in and around Toronto as a chamber musician and soloist. He is a member of the Seiler Strings Chamber Orchestra.

After studying with Fernando Hasaj, **Javier Portero** moved from Buenos Aires to Canada where he currently coaches with Steven Dann at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto. Active as chamber

musician, Javier has performed in concert halls in Toronto, New York, Singapore, Argentina and Latin America. During his career, Javier has played in the Toronto Philharmonia, the Toronto Royal Conservatory Orchestra, the Buenos Aires Philharmonic, the Buenos Aires Chamber Orchestra, the contemporary music groups ENSEMBLES21 and DEDALUS. He has collaborated with such composers as Martin Bauer, Santiago Santero and Alejo Perez Pouilleaux and has performed in musical theater and film music. Currently, Javier is a member of the Tokai String Quartet and the Toronto Philharmonia. He plays a 1998 Julio Giorgio Viola.

**Rafael Hoekman** is originally from Newfoundland, but studied in Montreal and Toronto. He has won prizes in many competitions such as the Orford International, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra competition, and the Stepping Stones Competition of the CMC. He has performed many concerts all over Canada as a soloist and chamber musician. After earning his Bachelor's Degree from U of T in 2002, he decided to pursue his Master's Degree as well. Rafael is Teaching Assistant to Scott St. John for Chamber Music for 2002/2003, and a recipient of a Palmer's Grant for his Master's Degree. He plays on a 1956 Giuseppe Lucci cello kindly on loan from the Banff Centre.

**Amanda Goodburn** is a student of Erika Raum, in the Master's Degree program at University of Toronto.

The **Downtown String Quartet** was founded in September 2001 and has enjoyed enormous success at the University of Toronto. The quartet has had the pleasure of working extensively with the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Simon Fryer, Gary Kulesha, and Terry Helmer. As well as working on established quartet repertoire, the quartet has collaborated with many composers and performers at

the University of Toronto. Recently the Downtown Quartet performed John Weinzwieg's *Second Quartet* as part of a concert honouring his 90th birthday. They also performed excerpts of Ingram Marshall's music for Soundstreams in the Glenn Gould Studio in April.

Violinist **Christian Robinson** has recently completed his undergraduate performance degree at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, in the studio of Mark Skazinetzsky. He has been both concertmaster and associate concertmaster of the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra, as well a member of the National Academy Orchestra. His chamber music activities include involvement with the Downtown String Quartet, as well as the Trio of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Christian is an active freelance violinist in the Toronto area.

Violinist **Jennifer Burford** is currently in her third year of an undergraduate Performance Degree at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Mark Skazinetzsky. Jennifer began her violin studies at age four. In her childhood and adolescence she extended her musical training by being a member of several youth orchestras, including the Mooredale Youth Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has also performed as a soloist with the Scarborough Philharmonic, as winner of the Scarborough

Philharmonic Youth Concerto Competition in August 2000. In 2001 and 2002, Jennifer was a member of the National Academy Orchestra under the baton of Boris Brott. During her three years at U of T she has served as concertmaster of the U of T Chamber Orchestra and the Opera Orchestra and has been a member of the U of T Symphony Orchestra. Jennifer spent the summer of 2002 in Casalmaggiore, Italy, studying with faculty of the Oberlin Conservatory. She is the recipient of the Nick Gelmych



violin scholarship for 2002, by recommendation of the faculty of U of T.

**Alex McLeod** is currently in his third year of the performance program at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, where he studies with Kathy Rapoport. After starting on the violin at a very young age, Alex switched to the viola, which he has been playing since the age of 13. He has participated in master classes with Rivka Golani, Steven Dann and Thomas Reibl, and hopes to become a professional chamber musician in the future.

Cellist **Alexandra Lee** is completing the fourth year of her Bachelor of Music Performance Degree at the University of Toronto under Simon Fryer. She has acted as principal cellist for the various University Orchestras for the past two years. She is an avid chamber musician, and is extensively involved in the new music scene of the University. She has performed in chamber concerts in Waterloo and Toronto with NuMus and Continuum, and for two years has been a member of the U of T Contemporary Music Ensemble under the direction of Gary Kulesha. As a winner of the Huronia Symphony Concerto Competition, she has performed the Boccherini Cello Concerto in B-flat. Most recently, she premiered "Unapproachable Light" by Nicholas Akers for cello solo and chamber orchestra.

The **Gemini String Quartet** was formed in 1994 at the Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute (SOCMI) by Ann Valentyne, and still includes its original four members. Since its formation, the GSQ has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. In 1997 the GSQ placed first in the chamber music category of the National Music Festival held in Saskatoon, performing Maurice Ravel's String Quartet to great adulation. Having worked intensively with the St. Lawrence String Quartet through their participation

with SOCMI, the GSQ was invited to attend the first-ever St. Lawrence String Quartet Chamber Music Seminar at Stanford University in July 2000. The St. Lawrence then asked the GSQ to perform the Mendelssohn Octet with them in a concert at the University of Toronto in October of 2000. The next summer the GSQ was invited by the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus to accompany them on their European tour, which included concerts in Germany and Amsterdam.

In its nine years together, the GSQ has had the opportunity to perform for many outstanding musicians. In the six years spent studying at SOCMI they were fortunate enough to work with Terrance Helmer, Kenneth Perkins, Marcel Saint-Cyr, the Penderecki String Quartet and of course, the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

Violinist **Akemi Mercer** was born in Edmonton in 1980. She is completing her B.Mus at the University of Toronto in violin with Mayumi Seiler. Recently Akemi came first at the Canadian Music Competition and as a result has performed on several occasions this year in Oakville and Toronto. She has also performed as soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra after coming first in the 2000 Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra concerto competition, in the Mooredale concert series and in the Roy Thomson Hall lobby noon hour series. Akemi has collaborated with such distinguished artists as Scott St. John, Steven Dann, Vladimir Mendelssohn and William Aide. During the summer, Akemi has participated in the Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute, Orford Centre for the Arts, the Domaine Forget Chamber Music session, the Banff Centre for the Arts and the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland. This year Akemi will be auditioning for Master's programs abroad and plays in Seiler Strings, part of the Via Salzburg Chamber Music series.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, violinist **Tori Lindsay** began her musical studies at the age of nine, and later went on to study with Mark Wells in Toronto. She has been the recipient of numerous awards

including the Andrew Alexander Kinghorn and Nick Gelmych Violin Scholarships.

Tori has participated in the Banff Centre for the Arts Masterclass Program, the Domaine Forget Music Academy, the Colorado College Summer Music Festival.

She was invited to participate in the Stanford University Chamber Music Seminar, studying with the St. Lawrence String Quartet, and is an alumna of the Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute.

In master classes she has worked with many distinguished musicians including Yehonaton Berick, Andres Cardenas, Lorand Fenyves, Mauricio Fuks, Scott St. John, Paul Kantor, Daniel Phillips and Christian Tetzlaff. Ms. Lindsay has held principal and

concertmaster positions with various orchestras, most recently the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and the University of Toronto Chamber and Symphony Orchestras. Recently she accompanied the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus on their European Tour. Tori is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Music degree in performance at the

University of Toronto, studying with Mayumi Seiler. Next year she will continue with graduate studies at the Shepherd School of Music.

**Caitlin Boyle** is an emerging, young viola player and she hopes to make a career for herself as a performer, chamber musician and orchestral player. As a performer she has been a finalist in many Southern Ontario competitions and has put on several solo recitals at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Caitlin's love of chamber music was inspired at the Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute (SOCMI), when she was fourteen years old. Since then, she has participated in

chamber music studies at the Banff School of the Arts, the Orford Chamber Music Festival and the Domaine Forget. In the summer of 2002, Caitlin was invited to play in Orvieto Musica, a summer chamber music festival in Italy. Caitlin has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, the National Academy Orchestra, the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and she has been principal with Royal Conservatory Orchestra, the New England Conservatory Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. Caitlin started playing the viola at age three at the Hamilton Suzuki School of Music, with Lorraine Dargavel. Her other teachers include David Goldblatt (National Arts Centre Orchestra), Doris Lichtman (United Kingdom), Daniel Blackman (Toronto Symphony Orchestra) and James Dunham (New England Conservatory). Caitlin is currently completing her fourth year of studies at the Glenn Gould School, Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She is a student of Steven Dann, former principal violist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

In her spare time Caitlin enjoys outdoor recreational activities, in-depth discussions and studying psychology.

Cellist **Nadia Klein** is in her final year at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music where she studies with Simon Fryer. An avid chamber musician Nadia has performed with the St. Lawrence String Quartet, toured Europe with the Gemini String Quartet and the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, and for the second consecutive year is recipient of the Felix Galimir Award, the University of Toronto's highest chamber music award. Upon completion of her degree Nadia plans to undertake a Master's degree while she continues to work tirelessly towards her goal of being a professional chamber musician.



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